

no. 498.

JOHN H. SURREATT.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

TRANSMITTING

*A report of the Secretary of State relating to the discovery and arrest of John H. Surratt.*

DECEMBER 10, 1866.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed

*To the House of Representatives :*

I have the honor to communicate a report of the Secretary of State relating to the discovery and arrest of John H. Surratt.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, *December 8, 1866.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 8, 1866.*

The Secretary of State has the honor to submit the following report: The House of Representatives having sent to this department a resolution in the following words, namely:

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.—CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*December 3, 1866.*

On motion of Mr. Boutwell,

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of State be, and he hereby is, directed to lay before this House copies of all correspondence in the State Department relating to the discovery and arrest of John H. Surratt.

Attest:

EDWARD MCPHERSON.  
CLINTON LLOYD, *Chief Clerk.*

The Secretary of State herewith submits to the President a copy of the correspondence which is specified in the resolution thus recited.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT *of the United States.*

*List of papers.*

Mr. Wilding to Mr. Seward, September 27, 1865.  
Same to same, September 30, 1865.  
Same to same, October 10, 1865.  
Mr. Hunter to Mr. Wilding, October 13, 1865.  
Mr. Potter to Mr. Seward, October 25, 1865.  
Same to same, October 27, 1865.  
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Potter, November 11, 1865.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Speed, November 13, 1865.  
Mr. King to Mr. Seward, April 23, 1866.  
Same to same, May 11, 1866.  
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Stanton, May 17, 1866.  
Mr. Stanton to Mr. F. W. Seward, May 19, 1866.  
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. King, May 21, 1866.  
Judge Holt to Mr. F. W. Seward, May 22, 1866.  
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. King, May 24, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Wilson, May 25, 1866.  
Same to same, May 25, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Stanton, May 28, 1866.  
Mr. King to Mr. Seward, June 19, 1866.  
Same to same, June 23, 1866.  
Same to same, June 30, 1866.  
Same to same, July 14, 1866.  
Same to same, July 14, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. King, July 16, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Stanton, July 20, 1866.  
Same to same, August 7, 1866.  
Mr. King to Mr. Seward, August 8, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. King, August 15, 1866.  
Same to same, October 16, 1866.  
Mr. King to Mr. Seward, November 2, 1866.  
Same to same, November 3, 1866.  
Same to same, November 10, 1866.  
Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward, November 17, 1866.  
Mr. Marsh to Mr. Seward, November 18, 1866.  
Mr. King to Mr. Seward, November 19, 1866.  
Mr. King to Mr. Seward, November 20, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. King, November 26, 1866.  
Same to same, November 30, 1866.  
Same to same, November 30, 1866.  
Mr. Hale to Mr. Seward, (telegram,) December 2, 1866  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Hale, December 3, 1866.  
Same to same, December 4, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Welles, December 4, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. King, December 4, 1866.  
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Dudley, December 6, 1866  
Mr. Seward to Mr. King, December 8, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Marsh, December 10, 1866.  
Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey, December 10, 1866;

*Mr. Wilding to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 538.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Liverpool, September 27, 1865.*

SIR: Yesterday, information was given me that — Surratt, one of the persons implicated in the conspiracy to murder Mr. Lincoln, was in Liverpool, or expected there within a day or two. I took the affidavit of the person who gave me the information, and transmitted it to Mr. Adams, and I herewith transmit a copy.

— described himself as a passenger, but I have ascertained that he is \* \* \* He expects a letter or a visit from Surratt in a day or two, and has promised to acquaint me with his, Surratt's, location.

Should there be really anything in it, and a warrant be obtained for Surratt's apprehension, we should scarcely get him delivered up without other evidence than we can obtain here, we should have to ask his remand until you could send us the necessary evidence.

Very respectfully, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A. WILDING, *Vice-Consul.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

---

I, \* \* \* \* of Montreal, \* \* \* at present residing at \* \* \* make oath and say, that on the fifteenth day of this present month of September, on board the steamer Montreal, sailing from Montreal to Quebec, I became acquainted with a man passing by the name of Macarthy, a fellow passenger in said steamer; that on the sixteenth of said month said Macarthy and I embarked as passengers on board the steamer \* \* \* for Liverpool, where we arrived yesterday, the twenty-fifth day of September; that said Macarthy was introduced to me by a Mr. \* \* \* on board the Montreal, as a passenger who had compromised himself; that during the voyage, two or three days after we sailed from Quebec, during a conversation said Macarthy spoke of his having had great difficulty in escaping from the United States into Canada, and asked me if I suspected who he was. I told him that connecting what he had been telling me with what had occurred at the time, I supposed that he had been connected with the assassination of President Lincoln. He made no reply but smiled. Subsequently, during the voyage, he told me that he had been in the confederate service, engaged in conveying intelligence between Washington and Richmond; that he had been concerned in a plan for carrying off President Lincoln from Washington, which was concocted entirely by J. Wilkes Booth and himself; that he came to Canada just before the assassination of President Lincoln took place; that while in Canada he received a letter from Booth saying that it had become necessary to change their plans and requested him to come to Washington immediately; that he did start immediately for Washington, but did not say whether he went there, but he said that on his way back to Canada the train he was in was delayed at St. Albans, and while sitting at breakfast a gentleman next to him spoke of the report of the assassination, and that he, Macarthy, or as he then called himself, Harrison, replied that the news was too good to be true; that the gentleman took a newspaper out of his pocket and read the account of the occurrence, and he, Macarthy, was surprised to see his name there, and left immediately; that on Sunday evening last he had been telling me of an interview with Mr. \* \* \* at Richmond, and I said to him, you have told me a great deal, what must I call you, what is your real name? and

he said, my name is Surratt. That was just before our arrival at Londonderry, where he, Macarthy, or Surratt landed. I have not seen him since, but from what he told me I believe he is now in Liverpool. He is a man about twenty-five or thirty years of age; as he is now he is dark, but his hair is dyed. He is about five feet eight inches high, a very sharp Roman nose and prominent forehead, small sunken eyes, slight moustache, no whiskers.

Sworn before me at Liverpool this 26th day of September, 1865.

GEORGE MELLY,  
*Justice of the Peace for the borough of Liverpool.*

*Mr. Wilding to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 539.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Liverpool, September 30, 1865.*

SIR: Since my despatch No. 538, the supposed Surratt has arrived in Liverpool and is now staying at the oratory of the Roman Catholic church of the Holy Cross. His appearance indicates him to be about twenty-one years of age, rather tall, and tolerably good looking.

According to the reports, Mrs. Surratt was a very devout Roman Catholic, and I know that clergymen of that persuasion on their way to and from America have frequently lodged, while in Liverpool, at that same oratory, so that the fact of this young man going there somewhat favors the belief that he is really Surratt.

I can, of course, do nothing further in the matter without Mr. Adams's instructions and a warrant. If it be Surratt, such a wretch ought not to escape. \* \* \*

Very respectfully, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

H. WILDING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

*Mr. Wilding to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 544.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Liverpool, October 10, 1865.*

SIR: Mr. Adams instructed me that he did not consider it advisable, with our present evidence of identity and complicity, to apply for a warrant for the arrest of the supposed Surratt.

In his conversation with the \* \* \* of the \* \* \* Surratt declared his hope that he would "live long enough to give a good account of Mr. Johnson."

Very respectfully, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

H. WILDING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

*Mr. Hunter to Mr. Wilding.*

No. 476.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, October 13, 1863.

SIR: Your despatches from 533 to 541, inclusive, have been received. In reply to your No. 538, I have to inform you that, upon a consultation with the Secretary of War and the Judge Advocate General, it is thought advisable that no action be taken in regard to the arrest of the supposed<sup>d</sup> John Surratt at present.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER,  
*Acting Secretary.*

H. WILDING, Esq.,  
*United States Vice-Consul, Liverpool.*

*Mr. Potter to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 236.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL, B. N. A. P.,  
Montreal, October 25, 1865.

SIR: I sent a telegram in cipher yesterday informing the department that John H. Surratt left Three Rivers some time in September for Liverpool, where he now is awaiting the arrival of the steamer Nova Scotian, which sails on Saturday next, by which he expects to receive money from parties in this city, by the hand of \* \* \* of whom Surratt made a confident in Liverpool.

I have the information from \* \* \* \* \*  
It is Surratt's intention to go to Rome. He was secreted at Three Rivers by a Catholic priest there, with whom he lived.

I requested instructions in my telegram, but hearing nothing yet, I scarcely know what course to take. If an officer could proceed to England in this ship, I have no doubt but that Surratt's arrest might be effected, and thus the last of the conspirators against the lives of the President and Secretary of State be brought to justice. If I hear nothing from Washington, I shall go to Quebec to-morrow to see \* \* \* \* \* further on the subject.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JOHN F. POTTER,  
*United States Consul General, B. N. A. P.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

*Mr. Potter to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 237.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,  
BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES,  
Montreal, October 27, 1865.

SIR: I have just had a personal interview with \* \* \*. He informs me that, before the steamer sailed, a person with whom he was acquainted asked him if he was willing that a gentleman, who had been somewhat compromised by



the recent troubles in the United States, should pass as his friend on board the steamer on her passage out. The \* \* \* declined to acknowledge the person as his friend until he should know who he was. Subsequently, the same party, accompanied by a person, came on board the ship before she left her dock, and introduced him to the surgeon as Mr. McCarty. During the voyage McCarty made himself known to \* \* \* as John H. Surratt, and related to him many of the particulars of the conspiracy. He said he had been secreted in Montreal most of the time, with the exception of a few weeks, when he was with a Catholic priest, down the river.

He also stated that Porterfield of this city, formerly of Tennessee, assisted in secreting him.

The \* \* \* also informed me that Surratt had dyed his hair, eyebrows, and monstache black, stained his face, and wore glasses. Surratt landed at Londonderry, in Ireland, fearing that he might be watched and detected in Liverpool. The \* \* \* saw him in Liverpool before the steamer left, when Surratt told him he was obliged to remain until he could receive money from Montreal; and he desired \* \* \* to see his friend in this city and bring him funds.

After the return of the Peruvian \* \* \* was transferred to the Nova Scotian. When I saw \* \* \*, he had just had an interview with the friend of Surratt, who had introduced him as McCarty, who told him that he was expecting funds from Washington, but that they had not yet come; that he had received letters from Surratt recently, and that he would await in Liverpool the arrival of the Nova Scotian.

I hoped that an officer might have been sent out in the Nova Scotian, which sails to-morrow, in which case \* \* \* would have aided him in the arrest of Surratt. The \* \* \* says that Surratt manifested no signs of penitence, but justified his action, and was bold and defiant when speaking of the assassination. As an illustration: he told me that Surratt remarked repeatedly that he only desired to live two years longer, in which time he would serve President Johnson as Booth did Mr. Lincoln. \* \* \* said that he felt it his duty to give me this information, for he regarded Surratt as a desperate wretch, and an enemy to society, who should be apprehended and brought to justice. The \* \* \* is and ever has been friendly to our government; and I am informed by the most respectable parties that he is a high-minded, honorable gentleman.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN F. POTTER,

*United States Consul, British North American Provinces.*

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,

*Secretary of State*

*Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Potter.*

[Extract.]

No. 164.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, November 11, 1865.

SIR: Your despatches, from No. 235 to No. 241, have been received. The information communicated in your No 237 has been properly availed of.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,  
*Assistant Secretary.*

JOHN F. POTTER, Esq.,

*United States Consul General, Montreal.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Speed.*

NOVEMBER 13, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your perusal despatch No. 237 from John F. Potter, esq., the United States consul general at Montreal, relative to an interview with \* \* \* in relation to John H. Surratt, the conspirator.

In this connection I beg leave to request that you will procure an indictment against the said John H. Surratt as soon as convenient, with the view to demand his surrender.

I will thank you to return the despatch after making such use of it as you may desire.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. JAMES SPEED,

*Attorney General of the United States.*

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 53.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Rome, April 23, 1866.*

SIR: \* \* \* \* \*  
On Saturday last, 21st instant, \* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

called upon me for the purpose, as he said, of communicating the information that John S. Surratt, who was charged with complicity in the murder of President Lincoln, but made his escape at the time from the United States, had recently enlisted in the Papal Zouaves, under the name of John Watson, and was now stationed with his company, the 3d, at Sezze. My informant said that he had known Surratt in America, that he recognized him as soon as he saw him at Sezze; that he called him by his proper name, and that Surratt, taking him aside, admitted that he was right in the guess. He added that Surratt acknowledged his participation in the plot against Mr. Lincoln's life; and declared that Jefferson Davis had incited, or was privy to it, \* \* \* further, said that Surratt seemed to be well provided with money, and appealed to him \* \* \* not to betray his secret; and he expressed an earnest desire that if any steps were taken towards reclaiming Surratt as a criminal, he \* \* \* should not be known in the matter. He spoke so positively in answer to my questions as to his acquaintance with Surratt, and the certainty that this was the man; and there seemed such entire absence of motive for any false statement on the subject, that I could not very well doubt the truth of what he told me. I deemed it my duty, therefore, to report the circumstance to the department and ask for instructions.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 54.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Rome, May 11, 1866.*

SIR : In my last despatch of April 23, I mentioned that \* \* \* had called upon me for the purpose of communicating the intelligence that John S. Surratt, one of the persons charged with complicity in the murder of President Lincoln, was a member of the \* \* \* regiment \* \* \* and then stationed at Sezze. I have since received two letters from \* \* \* relating to this matter, which I enclose for the information of the department. While awaiting their instructions, the information has been kept secret here.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,  
RUFUS KING.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, &c.*

\* \* \* , April 23, 1866.

HONORABLE SIR : With reference to the information I had the honor to give you Saturday last, I most respectfully state and suggest that it would be advisable to proceed at once and ascertain if such information is correct, as I understand that \* \* \* may be soon under orders to go further in the mountains, and it would be more difficult for me to communicate with you. As to the identity of the party, I can assure you on my most sacred honor it is lost time to acquire further proofs. I am fully convinced that it is the same individual. I have known him in Baltimore. I have seen him here; have spoken to him; recognized him at once; and when he made himself known to me and acknowledged he was the same party I thought he resembled to. He related several particulars of our first meeting at Ellangowan, fifteen miles from Baltimore, where I was then engaged as a teacher, which no one but himself could have remembered. This was about a year before the assassination of President Lincoln; all this occurred about a fortnight ago. I then resolved that as soon as I could get leave to go to Rome I would seek the American minister and inform him of the fact, which no one here, and I am certain in Europe, knows but myself. I am fully aware of the danger of my position, for in my opinion that party must have friends here, and the utmost caution must be used both in securing him, and for my personal safety. I have told you it is my desire to leave \* \* \* as soon as possible, and that I can do by paying a sum of five or six hundred francs. I think I have done my duty in conscience, and trust in you not to be forgotten. I shall expect an answer at your earliest convenience; in writing to me use ordinary paper and envelope, and take a form and turn of expression as none but myself will be able to understand.

I have the honor to be, honorable sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

HON. General KING,  
*Minister of the United States, Palazzo Talviati, via Del Corse, Rome.*



\* \* \*, May 7, 1866.

GENERAL: I am in receipt of your honored favor of the 4th instant, and in reply beg to state that the party in question is still at the place mentioned in my last letter to you. If any thing happens I shall immediately advise you. Also if I change quarters I shall let you know where you can address me.

Hoping everything will turn out to your satisfaction and for the greatest advantage of the United States, I hope justice to the ever lamented memory of President L. will be made.

I long to revisit my native land and the gray hair of my father and mother, and wish to make of the United States my last and permanent home.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, general, &c.

Hon. General KING, *Rome.*

---

*Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Stanton.*

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, May 17, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose for your information an extract from a despatch to this department of the 23d ultimo, (No. 53,) from Mr. King, minister resident of the United States at Rome, communicating certain information which had been imparted to him by \* \* \* concerning John H. Surratt, who was charged with complicity in the murder of President Lincoln.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,  
*Secretary of War.*

---

*Mr. Stanton to Mr. F. W. Seward.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, May 19, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge yours of the 17th, accompanying a report of the United States minister at Rome, in relation to John H. Surratt. That report was referred to the Judge Advocate General, who returns it to this department with a recommendation, a copy of which is herewith inclosed. I would respectfully ask that it may be transmitted to Mr. King, with instructions in conformity with General Holt's recommendation.

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,  
*Acting Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

---

BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE,  
*May 19, 1866.*

Respectfully returned.

It is recommended that the American minister at Rome be urged to procure without delay, if possible, a full statement of John H. Surratt's confession to \* \* \* , verified by oath, which could probably be obtained through

assurances that \* \* \* \* \* should in no manner be compromised thereby. This man, there is reason to believe, is the same referred to by one of the witnesses on the trial of the assassins of the President. He was represented to have been engaged in school-teaching in Maryland, at a village called Ellan-gowan, in the year 1853. Afterwards he came to Washington, and was for a short time employed by \* \* \* \* \*. He stated that he had come from Montreal, Canada, where he had sold his farm, the proceeds of which he had lost in this country. He spoke French, Italian, and English fluently, and was known as \* \* \* \* \*. The American minister has no doubt caught the sound of his name imperfectly, and has in consequence written it \* \* \* \* \*.

The particulars above given will make it easy to ascertain if this is the person mentioned in the despatch to the Secretary of State. If he is, it is believed that it can be shown here that he is a man of character and entitled to credit in his statements. It may be added that in this despatch the American minister has slightly mistaken Surratt's name. It is not John S., as he supposes, but John H.

J. HOLT,  
*Judge Advocate General.*

---

*Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. King.*

[Extract.]

No. 35.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, May 21, 1866.*

SIR: Your despatch of the 23d ultimo, No. 53, was duly received, and a copy of so much of it as relates to John H. Surratt was promptly communicated to the Secretary of War. Enclosed I transmit a copy of a letter from him upon the subject, together with a communication from the Judge Advocate General, to whom your report was referred by the Secretary of War. You are instructed to obtain, if possible, pursuant to General Holt's suggestions, the full statement verified by oath of \* \* \* \* \*.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,  
*Acting Secretary.*

RUFUS KING, &c., &c., &c., *Rome.*

---

*Judge Holt to Mr. F. W. Seward.*

[Extract.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE,  
*Washington, D. C., May 22, 1866.*

DEAR SIR: Referring to our conversation of this morning, I have the honor to state that the full name of the person supposed to be alluded to in the despatch of the American minister at Rome, is now ascertained to be \* \* \* \* \*. Should he make a statement in regard to Surratt's confession, there should be embodied in it his entire name, together with the circumstances of his sojourn in the United States, if he was here, mentioning dates, places, &c., as well as the names of some of the persons with whom he was associated. This will make the question of identity of easy solution.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. HOLT,  
*Judge Advocate General.*

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,  
*Assistant Secretary of State.*

*Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. King.*

[Extract.]

No. 36.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, May 24, 1866.*

SIR: Since the date of the instruction addressed to you in answer to your despatch, No. 33, of the 23d ultimo, a letter has been received at this department from Mr. Holt, the Judge Advocate General, in which he states that it has been ascertained that the name of the person supposed to be alluded to in your despatch is \* \* \*.

Mr. Holt suggests that if he should make a statement in regard to Surratt's confession, there should be embodied in it his entire name, together with the circumstances of his sojourn in the United States, if he were ever here, mentioning dates, places, &c., as well as the names of some of the persons with whom he was associated. This, Mr. Holt thinks, will make the question of identity one of easy solution.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,

*Acting Secretary.*

RUFUS KING, Esq., &c., &c., &c., *Rome.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Wilson.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, May 25, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, asking, on behalf of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, for a copy of all papers in this department which are or may be supposed to implicate any person, other than those already tried, in complicity in the assassination of the late President Lincoln and the attempted assassination of William H. Seward, Secretary of State.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that there are no papers of that character in this department.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. JAMES WILSON,

*Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary,  
House of Representatives.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Wilson.*

[Confidential.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, May 25, 1866.*

SIR: In transmitting an official reply to your letter of the 23d instant, it is proper that I should add in this form that we have information from United States agents in foreign countries in regard to John H. Surratt. It would not now be advisable to communicate this, as the communication might tend to defeat our wish to arrest Surratt for the purpose of bringing him to this country to be tried.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. JAMES WILSON,

*House of Representatives*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Stanton.*

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, May 28, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose an extract from a despatch received at this department to-day from General King, our minister resident at Rome, in which he communicates further information concerning John H. Surratt. As we have no treaty of extradition with the Papal government, it is proposed that a special agent be sent to Rome to demand the surrender of Surratt, should he be fully identified as the individual referred to by \* \* \* \* \*, of which there would seem to be little doubt. I will, consequently, thank you for any suggestions which you may be pleased to offer upon the subject, with a view to such instructions as may be given to the proposed agent.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,  
*Secretary of War.*

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 56.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Rome, June 19, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of despatch No. 36, under date of May 24, and referring to certain instructions addressed to me, in answer to my despatch No. 53, of the 23d of April, I hasten to say that these instructions have not yet come to hand, and it would appear from the number (36) of the despatch now acknowledged that two of the series from the State Department, to wit, Nos. 34 and 35, are missing; the last received previous to the present one being No. 33, of March 23. Under the circumstances, I venture to request that duplicates of Nos. 34 and 35 be at once forwarded to me. Awaiting their arrival, I will act upon the suggestion of the judge Advocate General referred to in your last, and endeavor to obtain from \* \* \* \* \*, who is still at Velletri, the further and fuller statement which the judge deems desirable. \* \* \* \* \* answers exactly to the description given of him in Judge Holt's letter, and is no doubt the same person. He adheres confidently to his original statement in regard to Surratt, who, at the present speaking, is with \* \* \* \* \* at Veroli, some forty miles from Rome.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 57.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Rome, June 23, 1866.*

SIR: \* \* \* \* \*

In compliance with the suggestion contained in your last despatch, (No. 36,) I communicated immediately with \* \* \*, and received from him yesterday



the accompanying document. I had, at the same time, a long conversation with him, which tended to confirm my belief in the truth of his statements. He repeated to me Surratt's confession of complicity in the murder of President Lincoln, and the admission of his mother's guilty participation in the same plot. He said that Surratt was well supplied with money by parties in Paris and London. He avowed his readiness to proceed at once to Washington and testify to all he knew in the premises, only asking to have his expenses paid and some compensation made for his time and trouble. I requested him to describe Surratt to me, which he did; and it corresponded exactly with the description given by the witness Weichmann at the trial of the conspirators. (See page 116 of volume published by Ben. Pittman, recorder, &c.) I cautioned him not to speak of the matter to any one; but to remain quiet until he heard from me, only keeping me advised, from time to time, of his own and Surratt's movements and whereabouts. He returned to Velletri last evening. I await, of course, the receipt of the instructions referred to in despatch No. 36 before taking any further steps in the matter.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

ROME, June 21, 1866.

GENERAL : Agreeably with your desire, I have the honor to make the following statement :

1. I am Canadian born, and was living in the United States when the late rebellion broke out. I was engaged as teacher in a small village in Maryland, called Little Texas, or Ellangowan, and there got acquainted with John S. Surratt and William Weichman. About six months before the end of the war I had removed to Washington, and was there engaged in \* \* \* \*  
Weichman, who was a friend of Surratt, was there with me. I had occasion to see him several times. He and Weichman, who was the principal witness in the trial of the assassins of President Lincoln, were intimates. From difficulties with Weichman I left Washington and joined the northern army, as a substitute for E. D. Porter, of Newark, Delaware, principal of an academy in that city. Not being used to hardships, I straggled in the first marches, and was picked up by Stuart's cavalry near Orange Courthouse, Virginia, and imprisoned in Castle Thunder, Richmond. Having been acquainted with the plots of a company of forgers who were then in the same prison, I acquainted General Winder of their intentions, and as a reward for my services got my liberty, and was sent free to Nassau, and from there to my native home—Canada—having gone first to England, on board a vessel loaded with cotton on the account of the confederacy.

2. After my return home the unfortunate assassination of President Lincoln took place. I immediately went to the United States consul at Montreal, and informed him what I knew about Surratt and Weichman, and told him that in my opinion I thought one was as guilty as the other, and acted only through fear in selling his accomplice. I have met Surratt here in Italy. \* \*  
He has acknowledged to me that he was the instigator of the murder, and had acted in the instructions and orders of persons he did not name, but some of whom are in New York, and others in London. He told me a party in London offered him £10,000 to publish a statement of the affair, but he refused.

I beg to say I am prepared to go to the United States, and give all the evidence I know in the unfortunate matter.

I am personally known in the United States to \* \* \* \*  
 I have known in Richmond General Winder, Captain Winder, his son ; Major  
 Carrington and Major Parkhill, and Captain Alexander, who was then commander  
 of Castle Thunder.

I have the honor to be, general, &c.,

General KING, *Rome, Italy.*

---

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Private.—Extracts.]

ROME, June 30, 1866.

MY DEAR GOVERNOR : \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* As you will learn from the accompanying despatch,  
 the missing document from the State Department arrived all right to day. I  
 cannot imagine where or how it has been delayed. I will act forthwith upon  
 the instructions in regard to \* \* \* He is willing and anxious to  
 go to the United States, and can get his release \* \* \*  
 by paying fifty dollars or so. I should judge that his parole evidence would be  
 much more desirable than any certified statement. He would expect to have  
 his expenses paid, and some compensation made for his time.

\* \* \* \* \*

Faithfully yours,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

---

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 59.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Rome, July 14, 1866.*

SIR : \* \* \* \* In compliance with  
 instructions heretofore received, I have obtained, and herewith transmit, an  
 additional statement, sworn and subscribed to by \* \* \*  
 touching J. H. Surratt's acknowledged complicity in the assassination of the late  
 President Lincoln. \* \* \* again expressed to me his great  
 desire to return to America and give his evidence in person. He thinks that his  
 life would be in danger here, should it be known \* \* \* that  
 he had betrayed Surratt's secret.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

---

ROME, July 10, 1866.

I, \* \* \* \* , a native of Canada, British America, aged 33, do  
 swear and declare under oath, that about six months previous to the assassina-  
 tion of President Abraham Lincoln, I was living in Maryland, at a small village  
 called Ellangowan, or Little Texas, about twenty-five or thirty miles from

Baltimore, where I was engaged as teacher for a period of about five months. I there and then got acquainted with Lewis J. Wiechmann and John H. Surratt, who came to that locality to pay a visit to the parish priest. At that first interview a great deal was said about the war and slavery; the sentiments expressed by these two individuals being more than strongly secessionists. In the course of the conversation, I remember Surratt to have said that President Lincoln would certainly pay for all the men that were slain during the war. About a month after I removed to Washington at the instigation of Wiechmann, and got a situation as tutor \* \* \* \* \*, where he was himself engaged. Surratt visited us weekly and once he offered to send me south; but I declined. I did not remain more than a month at Washington, not being able to agree with Wiechmann, and enlisted in the army of the north, as stated in my first statement in writing to General King. I have met Surratt here in Italy, at a small town called Velletri. He is now known under the name of John Watson. I recognized him before he made himself known to me, and told him privately, "You are John Surratt, the person I have known in Maryland." He acknowledged he was, and begged of me to keep the thing secret. After some conversation, we spoke of the unfortunate affair of the assassination of President Lincoln, and these were his words: "Damn the Yankees, they have killed my mother; but I have done them as much harm as I could. We have killed Lincoln, the nigger's friend." He then said, speaking of his mother, "Had it not been for me and that coward Wiechmann, my mother would be living yet. It was fear made him speak. Had he kept his tongue there was no danger for him; but if I ever return to America, or meet him elsewhere, I shall kill him."

He then said he was in the secret service of the south. And Wiechmann, who was in some department there, used to steal copies of the despatches and forward them to him, and thence to Richmond. Speaking of the murder, he said they had acted under the orders of men who are not yet known, some of whom are still in New York, and others in London. I am aware that money is sent to him yet from London. When I left Canada, he said I had but little money, but I had a letter for a party in London. I was in disguise with dyed hair and false beard; that party sent me to a hotel where he told me to remain till I would hear from him. After a few weeks he came and proposed to me to go to Spain, but I declined, and asked to go to Paris; he gave me £70 with a letter of introduction to a party there, who sent him here to Rome, where he joined the zouaves. He says he can get money in Rome at any time. I believe he is protected by the clergy, and that the murder is the result of a deep laid plot, not only against the life of President Lincoln, but against the existence of the republic, as we are aware that priesthood and royalty are and always have been opposed to liberty. That such men as Surratt, Booth, Wiechmann, and others, should, of their own accord, plan and execute the infernal plot which resulted in the death of President Lincoln, is impossible. There are others behind the curtain who have pulled the strings to make these scoundrels act. I have also asked him if he knew Jefferson Davis, he said no, but that he had acted under the instructions of persons under his immediate orders. Being asked if Jefferson Davis had anything to do with the assassination he said "*I am not going to tell you.*" My impression is that he brought the order from Richmond, as he was in the habit of going there weekly. He must have bribed the others to do it, for when the event took place he told me he was in New York, prepared to fly as soon as the deed was done. He says he does not regret what has taken place, and that he will visit New York in a year or two, as there is a heavy shipping firm there who had much to do with the south, and he is surprised that they have not been suspected.

This is the exact truth of what I know about Surratt. More I could not learn, being afraid to awaken his suspicions. And further I do not say.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sworn and subscribed before me, at the American legation in Rome, this tenth (10th) day of July, A. D. 1866, as witness my hand and seal of office.  
[L. S.] RUFUS KING, *Minister Resident*.

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.—Private.]

ROME, *Saturday, July 14.*

MY DEAR GOVERNOR: I send herewith \* \* \* sworn statement, (as made out by himself,) about Surratt's confession. \* \* \* is very anxious to return to America, and give his evidence in person, before the Judge Advocate General. He thinks that his life would be in danger \* \* \* if it became known that he had betrayed Surratt's secret. He is very desirous, too, to see his old mother, still living in Canada, and in straitened circumstances. It would not be difficult nor expensive to procure his discharge, \* \* \* ship him to Havre, and thence, with the help of the United States consul there, to New York, always providing that his presence and evidence are wanted in Washington. \* \* \*

Very truly, &c.,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

[Extract.]

No. 40.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, July 16, 1866.*

SIR: In further acknowledgment of your despatch of the 23d of June, I have to inform you that I have laid before the Secretary of War the letter which accompanies it, and which was written by \* \* \*

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

RUFUS KING, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Rome.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Stanton.*

[Extracts.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, July 20, 1866.*

SIR: I have just received from Mr. Rufus King, our minister at Rome, a private communication, dated June 30, in which the following sentence occurs concerning \* \* \*:

"As you will learn from the accompanying despatch, the missing document from the State Department arrived all right to-day. I cannot imagine where or how it has been delayed. I will act forthwith upon the instructions in regard to \* \* \*. He is willing and anxious to go to the United States, and can get his release \* \* \* by paying \$50 or so. I should judge that his parole evidence would be much more desirable than any certified



statement. He would expect to have his expenses paid and some compensation made for his time."

I send the above extract for your own information and that of the Bureau of Military Justice.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Stanton.*

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, August 7, 1866.*

SIR: I send you herewith, for your further information, a transcript of a despatch of the 14th of July last, (No. 59,) from the United States minister at Rome, together with a copy of an additional statement sworn and subscribed to by \* \* \*, touching John H. Surratt's acknowledged complicity in the assassination of the late President Lincoln.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

HON. EDWIN M. STANTON,

*Secretary of War.*

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 62.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Rome, August 8, 1866.*

SIR: \* \* \* \* \*

I availed myself of the opportunity to repeat to the cardinal the information communicated to me by \* \* \* in regard to John H. Surratt. His Eminence was greatly interested by it, and intimated that if the American government desired the surrender of the criminal there would probably be no difficulty in the way.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RUFUS KING.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

[Extract.]

STATE DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, August 15, 1866.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 14th of July, (No. 59,) and your private note of the same date, and to inform you, in reply, that I have enclosed a copy of the former, together with the sworn statement of \* \* \* which accompanied it, for the consideration of the Secretary of War.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

RUFUS KING, Esq., &c., &c., &c., *Rome.*

H. Ex. Doc. 9—2

*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

[Extract.—Confidential.]

No. 43.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, October 16, 1866.*

SIR: Mr. King's private letter of September 12, written at Hamburg, has just been received. It is accompanied by a private letter from \* \* \* of the 12th of September \* \* \* to Mr. Hooker.

I think it expedient that you do the following things:

1. Employ a confidential person, not \* \* \*, to visit Veltre, and ascertain, by comparison with the photograph herewith sent, whether the person indicated by \* \* \* is really John Surratt.

2. Pay \* \* \* to \* \* \* in consideration of the information he has already communicated on the subject.

3. Seek an interview with Cardinal Antonelli, and, referring to an intimation made by him to Mr. King in a conversation which took place on the 7th of August last, as reported in Mr. King's No. 62, namely, "that if the American government desired the surrender of the criminal (Surratt) there would probably be no difficulty in the way," ask the cardinal whether his Holiness would now be willing, in the absence of an extradition treaty, to deliver John H. Surratt upon authentic indictment and at the request of this department, for complicity in the assassination of the late President Lincoln, or whether, in the event of this request being declined, his Holiness would enter into an extradition treaty with us, which would enable us to reach the surrender of Surratt.

4. Ask as a favor to this government that neither \* \* \* nor Surratt be discharged \* \* \* until we shall have had time to communicate concerning them after receiving a prompt reply to this communication from you. \* \* \* should be told confidentially that the subject of his communication to Mr. Hooker is under consideration here.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. SEWARD.

P. S.—The photograph intended to be enclosed with this instruction will be sent by the next mail.

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.]

No. 65.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES AT ROME,

*November 2, 1866.*

SIR: I hasten to acknowledge your despatch No. 43, marked "confidential," under date of October 16, in reply to my private letter of September 12, from Hamburg, and conveying instructions upon the subject therein referred to. I lost no time in seeking an interview with the cardinal secretary of state, as directed to do in the aforesaid despatch; and with that view proceeded this morning to the vatican, accompanied by Mr. Hooker, acting secretary, as well that he should hear the conversation between the cardinal and myself, as that he should repeat to his Eminence in Italian what I proposed saying to him in French, relative to the wishes and expectations of our government in reference to Surratt. We were fortunate in finding the cardinal alone and disengaged, and I proceeded at once to state the business upon which we had called. His eminence was greatly in-

terested in the matter, the more so as I showed him the portraits of the "conspirators," contained in the volume published by "Ben. Pittman," and entitled "Assassination of President Lincoln"—remembered very well our previous conversation on the same subject, (referred to in my despatch No. 62, of August 8,) and the intimation he then gave as to the disposition of the Papal authorities to surrender Surratt, should he be claimed by the American government; and in reply to my question whether, upon authentic indictment or the usual preliminary proof, and at the request of the State Department, he would be willing to deliver up John H. Surratt, frankly replied in the affirmative. He added that there was, indeed, no extradition treaty between the two countries, and that to surrender a criminal, where capital punishment was likely to ensue, was not exactly in accordance with the spirit of the Papal government; but that in so grave and exceptional a case, and with the understanding that the United States government, under parallel circumstances, would do as they desired to be done by, he thought the request of the State Department for the surrender of Surratt would be granted. I then requested, as a favor to the American government, that neither Surratt nor \* \* \* should be discharged from the Papal service until further communication from the State Department, and his Eminence promised to advise with the Minister of War to that effect. I thanked his Eminence for his prompt and frank replies to my queries, and assured him that they would give great satisfaction to our government.

I shall, as directed, employ a trusty and confidential person to proceed to the station where Surratt is, and identify him by the photograph which I expect to receive in the next despatch from the department, and I will pay \* \* \* the sum named by the Secretary, in consideration of the information already furnished. I may also hold out to him the hope of some further remuneration, should Surratt be identified and surrendered, as also of his speedy discharge, in order to be a witness against Surratt, if required in the United States. Having thus, I trust, satisfactorily fulfilled the wishes of the State Department, I await with interest further instructions on this subject.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

---

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extracts.—Private.]

ROME, November 3, 1866.

MY DEAR GOVERNOR: In the accompanying despatch, No. 65, you will find the formal reply to yours of October 16, which I duly received two days ago. Both Mr. Hooker and myself inferred, as much from the cardinal's manner as from what he said, that there would be no difficulty about the surrender of Surratt should he be claimed. In this event, how is he to be sent to America? Cannot one of our ships-of-war, now in the Mediterranean, be directed to come to Civita Vecchia, secure Surratt and \* \* \* on board, and convey them to the United States? Would it not be well to ask also for \* \* \* discharge, that he may be used, if required, as a witness at Surratt's trial? Am I to draw directly on the department, or on Baring Brother, for \* \* \*, and the expense of sending a person to Veroli to identify Surratt? \* \* \*

Faithfully,

RUFUS KING.

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 66.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Rome, November 10, 1866.*

SIR: In my despatch No. 65, under date of November 2, I mentioned the result of the interview I had had with the cardinal secretary of state on the subject referred to in your "confidential" communication of October 16. I had occasion yesterday to call again upon his Eminence, with the view to ascertain, if possible, the truth of the widely prevalent rumor, that the Pope intended leaving Rome and seeking a refuge in the island of Malta. Before, however, I had the opportunity of making this inquiry, the cardinal apprised me that John Watson, alias John H. Surratt, had been arrested by his orders, and while on the way to Rome had made his escape from the guard of six men in whose charge he had been placed. At the same time his Eminence handed me the official documents, copies of which I herewith transmit, relating to the arrest, the escape, and the subsequent pursuit. As Veroli is close to the frontier, it is not at all unlikely that Surratt will make good his escape from his Zouave pursuers into the Italian kingdom. I thought it well, therefore, to send a confidential person at once to Florence, to lay the whole case before the American minister, and solicit his aid and that of the Italian government in the recapture; for I did not feel at all sure that either a message by telegraph or a letter by mail, to Mr. Marsh, would, under the circumstances, escape the surveillance or possible interruption of the Papal authorities. I hope to have a report from my messenger within two or three days, and as Surratt was in his Zouave dress when he effected his escape, I think the chance a fair one that he will be retaken. I trust that the course which I have pursued in the premises will meet the approbation of the department. I feel bound to add that, incredible as the details of the story appears, the cardinal spoke of them as verified beyond all question, and expressed very great and apparently sincere regret at Surratt's escape.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
RUFUS KING.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

---

[Order.]

NOVEMBER 6, 1866.

COLONEL: Cause the arrest of the Zouave Watson, and have him conducted, under secure escort, to the military prison at Rome. It is of much importance that this order be executed with exactness.

The general, pro-minister,

KAUZLEI.

Lieut. Colonel ALLET,  
*Commanding Zouave Battalion, Velletri.*

No. 463.]

PONTIFICAL ZOUAVES, BATTALION HEADQUARTERS,

*Velletri, November 7, 1866.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to inform you that the Zouave, John Watson, has been arrested at Veroli, and will be taken, to-morrow morning, under good escort, to Rome. While he was searched for at Trisulti, which was his garri-



son, he was arrested by Captain De Lambilly, at Veroli, where he was on leave. I have the honor also to inform your excellency that his name is not Watson but Watson.

I have the honor to be, general, your excellency's very humble and obedient servant,

Lieutenant Colonel ALLET.

His Excellency the GENERAL.

*Minister of War, Rome.*

#### PONTIFICAL TELEGRAPH.

[Presented at Vallettri 8th November, 1866, at 8.35 a. m. Received at Rome 8th November, 1866, at 8.50 a. m.]

His Excellency The GENERAL, *Minister of War, Rome:*

I received the following telegram, dated ———, from Captain Lambilly:

At the moment of leaving the prison, surrounded by six men as guards, Watson plunged into the ravine, more than a hundred feet deep, which defends the prison. Fifty zouaves are in pursuit. I will send Y. E. the news which I shall receive by telegraph.

Lieutenant Colonel ALLET.

No. 602.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE MINISTER,

*November 8, 1866.*

YOUR REVEREND EMINENCE: I have the honor to transmit to your Very Reverend Eminence the enclosed documents about the arrest and escape of Zouave Watson, of the 3d company, and will not fail to transmit the latest news I shall receive of the result of the pursuit of that individual.

I bend in all humility before the sacred Pontiff, with fresh assurances of profound respect.

I am, your Eminence, your most humble and devoted servant,

KAUSLEI.

His Eminence the Very Reverend Signor Cardinal ANTONELLI,

*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

*Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward.*

No. 414 ]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Lisbon, November 17, 1866.*

SIR: I communicate herewith a copy of a telegram which reached me early this morning:

ROME, *November 16, 1866—11.50 a. m.*

His Excellency Mr. HARVEY, *American Minister, Lisbon:*

Inform Admiral Goldsborough that very important matters render the immediate presence of one of our ships-of-war necessary at Civita Vecchia.

RUFUS KING.

G. V. FOX.

As Rear-Admiral Goldsborough is not now in port, I sent immediately for Commodore Steedman, who arrived here some days ago, and who is now the

superior officer present, in order to consult with him as to the proper measures to be adopted.

The United States steamer Swatara left here yesterday for Tangier, Gibraltar, and other ports in the Mediterranean, and if the rear-admiral, who is believed to have quit Cherbourg for Lisbon within the last few days, does not appear as soon as is now anticipated, Commodore Steedman will intercept and order the Swatara by telegraph to proceed to Civita Vecchia.

In the mean time I have addressed the following telegrams to the rear-admiral and to our minister at Rome :

LISBON, November 17, 1866.

Rear-Admiral GOLDSBOROUGH, *U. S. S. Colorado, Cherbourg:*

Our minister at Rome and Mr. Fox have telegraphed me to request you to send a ship immediately to Civita Vecchia. Quarantine has been removed from all French ports.

J. E. H.

LISBON, November 17, 1866.

General RUFUS KING, *American Minister, Rome:*

Rear-Admiral Goldsborough is expected here daily. If he is delayed, I have arranged to send you ship Swatara.

J. E. H.

These are the only precautions that could be taken under the circumstances, and they are believed to be sufficient for the emergency.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

JAMES E. HARVEY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

*Secretary of State.*

---

*Mr. Marsh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 168.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Florence, November 18, 1866.*

SIR: On my arrival from Venice on Tuesday morning I found the papers, copies and translations of which, marked respectively A, B, C, D, and E, are herewith annexed. Mr. Macpherson, introduced by the letter marked A, had gone to Leghorn, and I had no other information on the subject of his mission than such as the papers above referred to furnished.

I lost no time in seeing the secretary general of the ministry of foreign affairs—the minister not having yet returned from Venice—stated to him such facts as I was possessed of, and inquired whether he thought his government would surrender Surratt to the United States for trial if he should be found in the Italian territory.

He replied that he thought the accused would be surrendered on proper demand and proof, but probably only under a stipulation on our part that the punishment of death should not be inflicted on him. Having no instructions on the subject, knowing nothing of those which Mr. King might have received, and having, moreover, at that time no reason to suppose that Surratt had escaped into the territory of the King of Italy, I did not pursue the discussion further.

On Thursday Mr. Macpherson returned, but the information he was able to give me related only to the mode of the detection of Surratt.

On Friday morning, the 16th, I received Mr. King's two letters, copies of which, marked F and G, are annexed, and at 8 p. m. the same day a telegram, of which a copy, marked H, is also attached.

Upon the receipt of the telegram, I immediately addressed and sent to the ministry of foreign affairs a note, of which I annex a copy, marked I, and I called twice at the foreign office the next (Saturday) morning, but learned that the ministry of grace and justice, to which my note had been referred, had not come to decision on the subject. I presented such additional views as had suggested themselves to me in the mean time, and expressed an earnest hope that the request of my note for the detention of Surratt until more formal proceedings could be had, would be acceded to.

The secretary general of the ministry of foreign affairs, whom I saw in the absence of the minister, appeared to me less favorably disposed to the application than I had expected from my former conversation with him, and at a later hour I addressed to the ministry a note, of which a copy, marked J, is annexed hereto.

I doubt whether, in case of the surrender of Surratt, a formal stipulation to exempt him from the punishment of death will be insisted. In the famous La Gala case, Mr. Visconti Venosta, then as now minister of foreign affairs, refused to enter into such a stipulation on the extradition of the offenders, but nevertheless the government yielded to the intercession of the Emperor of France, and the sentence of those atrocious criminals, though convicted of numerous murders, robberies, and even cannibalism, was commuted, and I suppose the government of Italy would strongly recommend Surratt to mercy, if he is surrendered to us. The public sentiment of all classes in Italy is decidedly adverse to the infliction of capital punishment, and I shall not go too far, if I add to any severe or adequate punishment for the gravest offences. The universality of this feeling will have its weight with the government.

In order to secure the transmission of this despatch by the next mail, it must be posted at so early an hour to-morrow morning that I shall not be able to see the minister or secretary general of foreign affairs before it is sent to the post office, and I cannot probably communicate the decision of the ministry until another mail.

I have written to ask Mr. King for a copy of so much of his instructions on this subject as may be useful to me, and I beg for special instructions for my own guidance in the further conduct of this affair.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

GEORGE P. MARSH.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

---

[Enclosure A.—Confidential.]

*Mr. King to Mr. Marsh.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Rome, November 9, 1866.*

MY DEAR SIR: I send to you, under very peculiar circumstances, and as bearer of despatches, my friend Mr Robert Macpherson. He will tell you the story which the accompanying despatches will help to illustrate. I need not ask you to aid him in his researches.

Very truly yours,

RUFUS KING.

Mr. MARSH, *United States Minister, Florence.*

[Enclosure B.—Translation.]

*Kausler to Cardinal Antonelli.*

MINISTRY OF ARMS, CABINET OF THE PRO-MINISTER,

November 8, 1866.

MOST REVEREND EMINENCE: I have the honor to transmit to your most reverend eminence the accompanying documents on the arrest and escape of the Zouave Watson, of the 3d company, and I shall not fail to communicate such further information as I may receive as to the result of the pursuit of this individual.

Bowing to kiss the sacred purple, I am proud to subscribe myself, with profound devotion, your most Reverend Eminence's most humble and most devoted servant,

KAUSLER.

His most Reverend Eminence the CARDINAL ANTONELLI,

*Secretary of State.*

[Enclosure C.—Order.]

NOVEMBER 6, 1866.

COLONEL: Cause the Zouave Watson to be arrested and conveyed under safe escort to the military prisons at Rome. It is of much importance that this order be scrupulously fulfilled.

The general pro-minister,

KAUSLER.

Lieutenant Colonel ALLET,

*Commanding the Battalion of Zouaves, Velletri.*

[Enclosure D.—Translation.]

PONTIFICAL ZOUAVES, COMMAND OF THE BATTALLION No. 463,

*Velletri, November 7, 1866.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to inform you that the Zouave Watson (John) has been arrested at Veroli, and will be conducted to-morrow morning, under good escort, to Rome.

While they were in search of him at Trisulti, his garrison, he was arrested by Captain de Zambilly at Veroli where he was on leave.

I have the honor also to inform your excellency that his name is not *Watson* but *Watson*.

I have the honor to be, general, your excellency's most humble subordinate.

Lieutenant Colonel ALLET.

His Excellency the GENERAL,

*Minister of Arms, Rome.*

[Enclosure E.—Translation.]

[Telegram.]

Presented at Velletri November 8, 1866, 8.35 a. m.; arrived at Rome November 8, 1866, 8.50 a. m.

*His Excellency the General Minister of Arms, Rome:*

I received the following telegram, dated 4.30 a. m., from Captain Zambilly:

At the moment he left the prison, and while surrounded by six men as a guard,



Watson threw himself into the ravine, above a hundred feet perpendicular in depth, which defends the prison. Fifty zouaves in pursuit of him.

I will transmit to your excellency the intelligence I may receive by telegraph.

ALLET,

*Lieutenant Colonel.*

[Enclosure F.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Rome, November 12, 1866.*

MY DEAR MR. MARSH: I send you one of the photographs of John Surratt, which I received this day from the State Department, and may help to identify the scoundrel if we should be fortunate enough to catch him.

Very truly yours,

RUFUS KING.

[Enclosure G.]

ROME, *Tuesday, November 13.*

MY DEAR MR. MARSH: I had another interview and long conversation with Cardinal Antonelli this morning in reference to the arrest and escape of John H. Surratt. The cardinal gave me the reports of the various officers charged with the investigation of the facts in the case. They certainly show, on the surface, perfect good faith on the part of the Papal authorities, and an earnest desire to arrest the criminal, of whose guilt the cardinal expressed himself fully satisfied. He added that Surratt had, beyond doubt, made good his escape into the Italian territory, and was now, doubtless, at Naples. I write to give you this information, as it may aid your researches. I still think and hope we may catch the fugitive.

Very truly, yours,

RUFUS KING.

[Enclosure H.—Telegram.]

[Presented the 16th, 1866, 4.30 o'clock; received the 16th, 1866, 8.25 o'clock.]

ROME.

His Excellency Mr. MARSH, *American Minister, Florence:*

I have just heard that Surratt has been admitted, wounded, into the hospital at Sora.

RUFUS KING.

[Enclosure I.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Florence, November 16, 1866.*

MR. MINISTER: I am credibly informed, and confidently believe, that John H. Surratt, a leading actor in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States, who escaped from justice after that event, and has been recently serving as a Zouave in the Papal army at Rome, is now in a hospital at Sora, (supposed Sora terra di Lavoro,) where he is said to have been admitted in consequence of a wound, received in some manner of which I am not informed.

It has been known for a considerable time to the legation of the United States at Rome that Surratt had enlisted in the Papal military service, and this fact having been communicated by the legation to the pontifical government, an order for his arrest and committal to the military prison at Rome was issued by the minister of war on the sixth of the present month.

In pursuance of this order, Surratt, who had enrolled himself by the name of John Watson, was arrested at Veroli on the following day and conducted to Velletri. On the eighth of the month he escaped from his keepers, and has not been since heard of until his admission to the hospital at Sora.

The circumstances of the assassination in question are so well known that I need not enter into any details on that subject; and this legation, as well as the government and people of the United States, have received such abundant proof of the intense horror with which this great crime was regarded by the Italian government and nation, that I cannot doubt the entire readiness of the public authorities of this kingdom to use all proper measures to bring to justice any of the participators in the offence who may be found within their jurisdiction.

I am, as may naturally be supposed, without conclusive evidence to prove at this moment the complicity of Surratt in the crime, or to show the identity of that individual and the person now in the hospital at Sora. The latter point, however, I am informed can be established at once and beyond dispute; and the printed record of the proceedings against the assassins, a copy of which accompanies this note, will, I doubt not, be considered sufficient *prima facie* evidence of the guilt of the accused to warrant his detention until further proof, if any be necessary, can be produced to justify his extradition to the authorities of the United States for trial.

I need not enlarge upon the heinous criminality and the dangerous character of the offence with which Surratt is charged. The punishment of the assassins interests all civilized commonwealths, and the cause of justice is, in this instance, the cause of organized government, of public order, and of national security throughout the world.

I pray, therefore, Mr. Minister, that the local authorities at Sora may be instructed to hold the accused in safe custody until further proceedings can be had to insure his surrender to such officers of the United States as shall be authorized to receive him.

I avail myself of this occasion to tender to you, Mr. Minister, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

GEORGE P. MARSH.

Commander VISCONTI VENOSTA,

*Minister of Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c.*

---

[Enclosure J.]

*Mr. Marsh to Visconti Venosta.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Florence, November 17, 1866.*

MR. MINISTER: I have the honor to enclose herewith a photographic portrait of John H. Surratt, alias Watson, supposed to be now in a hospital at Sora. The portrait was received by the United States legation at Rome from the government of the United States, and is, therefore, no doubt authentic. It may help to identify the individual at Sora with the accused; but, as it is not apparently of the most recent date, it is not improbable that time and the circumstances of Surratt's life for the last eighteen months may have produced some change in his features and expression, which will render the likeness between

the original and the portrait less striking. The point of identity, however, as I had the honor of stating to Mr. Cerutti this morning, can, it is believed, be satisfactorily established by the testimony of persons at Rome, who have known Surratt familiarly on both sides of the Atlantic.

Accept, Mr. Minister, the renewed assurance of my high consideration.

GEORGE P. MARSH.

Commander VISCONTI VENOSTA,

*Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

No. 67.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES AT ROME,

*November 19, 1866.*

SIR: I had hoped ere this to have been able to announce to the department the fact of the recapture of John H. Surratt, whose arrest and subsequent escape were mentioned in my last despatch; but I regret to say that thus far all our efforts to apprehend the fugitive have proved fruitless. Mr. Marsh, our minister at Florence, will no doubt report to the government the steps which he may have seen fit to take in the premises. I shall, therefore, content myself with a brief recital of what was done here.

On Friday last, November 16, General Kanster, the Papal minister of war, called to inform me of a rumor which had reached him, that Surratt had been received, wounded, into the military hospital at Sora, a few miles beyond the Papal frontier. I instantly telegraphed this information to Mr. Marsh, and in a few hours received a reply from him to the effect that he had made the necessary application to the Italian government. Regarding, however, the identification and apprehension of Surratt as of the first importance, I despatched Mr. Hooker, acting secretary of legation, by the earliest train to Sora, furnished with all the necessary documents and a photograph of Surratt, and also with instructions, if he found Surratt there, to ask, in the name of the American government, that he should be held in close custody until a proper demand could be made upon the Italian authorities for his surrender as a fugitive from justice. Mr. Hooker executed his mission with intelligence and despatch. Arriving at Isoletta, the frontier station, and communicating by telegraph with the commanding officer at Sora, he ascertained that one of the Pontifical Zouaves, calling himself Watson, of Richmond, United States, twenty-two years old, tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, high forehead, reddish (sandy) hair, moustaches and goatee, had passed Sora for Naples, on the 8th instant, the same day that he escaped from Veroli, only a few miles distant. Mr. Hooker at once telegraphed this intelligence to our consul at Naples. The officer in charge at Isoletta did the same to the Neapolitan chief of police. Both asked that Surratt should, if possible, be arrested. I received a prompt reply from Mr. Swan at Naples, acknowledging receipt of Mr. Hooker's telegram, and stating that they were on the lookout for Surratt. Our hopes were strong, therefore, that we should succeed in catching him somewhere in the vicinity of Naples. But yesterday a second despatch from Mr. Swan apprised us that Surratt had left the preceding day, November 17, for Alexandria, by a steamer which stopped at Malta to coal, and that he had telegraphed the facts to our consul at that point. I also immediately telegraphed to Mr. Winthrop at Malta, urging the arrest of Surratt, but up to the moment of closing this despatch I have received no reply from Mr. Winthrop. The probabilities, I fear, now are, that Surratt will make good his escape.

Some surprise perhaps may be expressed that Surratt was arrested by the Papal authorities, before any request to that effect had been made by the Ameri-

can government. This was alluded to in a conversation I had on the subject with Cardinal Antonelli and the minister of war, on Friday last. Both gave me to understand that the arrest was made with the approval of his Holiness, and in anticipation of any application from the State Department, as well for the purpose of placing Surratt in safe custody, as with the view to show the disposition of the Papal government to comply with the expected request of the American authorities. I have no reason to doubt the entire good faith of the Papal government in the matter.

I enclose, for the information of the department, copies of one or two additional reports upon the facts connected with Surratt's arrest and escape.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

*Secretary of State, &c., &c.*

---

[Translation.]

JUAVI PONTIFECI, COMMAND OF BATTALION,

*Velletri, November 9, 1866.*

MY GENERAL: Following out your excellency's orders, I sent this morning, to Feroli, Lieutenant de Farnel, to make examination into the escape of Zouave Watson. I have learned some other details of this unfortunate business. Watson at the moment when he was arrested must have been on his guard, having obtained knowledge of a letter addressed \* \* \* \* \* which concerned him, probably. This letter, sent by mistake to a trumpeter named \* \* \* \* \* was opened by him, and shown to Watson, because it was written in English. I have sent it to your Eminence, with the report of Captain Lambilly.

I am assured that the escape of Watson savors of a prodigy. He leaped from a height of twenty-three feet on a very narrow rock, beyond which is a precipice. The filth from the barracks accumulated on the rock, and in this manner the fall of Watson was broken. Had he leaped a little further he would have fallen into an abyss.

I am, with respect, my general, your Eminence's very humble subordinate,

ALLET,

*Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Battalion.*

(No. 1, enclosed to Minister of War Roux.)

---

[Translation.]

FEROLI, *November 8.*

MY COLONEL: I regret to announce to you that, notwithstanding all my precautions, I learn Watson has succeeded in escaping. To carry out the orders received, I had sent Sergeant Halcyerid and six men to Tresulte, where this zonave was on detachment. They did not find him there, for on that day Watson had asked leave to go to Feroli. I charged the corporal of the third company, Vanderstroeten, to take him and turn him over to the post corporal, Warrin, to whom I had already given all my instructions on this subject.

All the measures ordered were carried out from point to point; two sentinels with loaded arms were placed, one at the very door of his prison, with orders to prevent any communication of the prisoner with persons outside, and the other at the door of the barrack. The prison, the doors and windows, &c., had been inspected in the minutest details by the locksmith of the commune. There was, therefore, nothing to fear in that quarter. All passed off well until this morning at four o'clock.



Then the prisoner was awakened, who rose, put on his gaiters, and took his coffee with a calmness and phlegm quite English. The gate of the prison opens on a platform which overlooks the country; a balustrade prevents promenaders from tumbling on the rocks, situate at least thirty-five feet below the windows of the prison.

Beside the gate of this prison are situated the privies of the barrack. Watson asked permission to halt there. Corporal Warrin, who had six men with him as guards, allowed him to stop, very naturally, nothing doubting, either he or the zouaves present, that their prisoner was going to try to escape at a place which it seemed quite impossible to us to clear. This perilous leap was, however, to be taken, to be crowned with success. In fact, Watson, who seemed quiet, seized the balustrade, made a leap, and cast himself into the void, falling on the uneven rocks, where he might have broken his bones a thousand times, and gains the depths of the valley. Patrols were immediately organized, but in vain. We saw a peasant, who told us that he had seen an unarmed zouave who was going towards Casa Mari, which is the way to Piedmont.

I address to you herewith the report of the corporal of the post, besides two letters which are not without importance. They may be of some use to the police.

Lieutenant Mously and I have been to examine the localities, and we asked ourselves how one could make such leaps without breaking arms and legs.

Please, my colonel, to receive the assurance of my respect.

DE LAMBILLY,  
*Commander of Detachment.*

I have sent the description of this zouave to the gens d'armes.

*Mr. King to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES AT ROME,  
November 20, 1866.

SIR:       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

I have received a letter from our consul at Naples, of which I enclose a copy. I have telegraphed the information to our consul at Alexandria.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RUFUS KING.

Hon. WM. H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, &c., &c.*

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Naples, November 18, 1866.*

SIR: I received your despatch this morning about 8 o'clock. I immediately had the police at Naples and the small towns about here hunting for Surratt, and learned, about 2 o'clock, that he left last evening at 9 o'clock, on the steamer Tripoli, for Alexandria, under the name of Walters. The steamer stops to-morrow at Malta to take in 300 tons of coal, and as the quarantine is in force there, he cannot get on shore. I immediately sent the following despatch to the consul at Malta:

"Surratt, one of the conspirators against Lincoln, left here last evening on the steamer Tripoli for Alexandria, under the name of Walters or Watson. He has on the uniform of a zouave of the Papal states. The steamer stops at

Malta to-morrow to coal; have him arrested. If you do not receive this in time, telegraph the consul at Alexandria."

I did not telegraph to Alexandria, as I thought there would be plenty of time for you to do so if you thought best after the receipt of this. If our consul is in Malta, there is little doubt but he will catch him there.

Surratt has been about Naples in his zonave uniform some days. Passed himself at the British consulate as a Canadian, and was taken on this steamer through the influence of the consul.

I have the honor to be very truly yours,

FRANK SWAN, *Consul*.

Hon. RUFUS KING,  
*Minister, &c., &c., Rome.*

---

*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

[Extracts.]

No. 44.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, November 26, 1866.*

SIR: Your despatch, No. 65, of the 2d instant, has been received. The course which you adopted with reference to John H. Surratt is approved. We await the identification of that person. A letter of credit in your favor \* \* \* is herewith enclosed. For the expenses which may be incurred in the case of Surratt you will draw on the Messrs. Barings \* \* \*. It is probable that a war vessel will be ordered to receive that person for transportation to this country.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

RUFUS KING, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

---

*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

No. 47.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, November 30, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of November 10, No. 66. It is a subject of sincere regret that John H. Surratt effected his escape from the Papal guard. Your proceedings in communicating on that subject so promptly with Mr. Marsh, at Florence, are approved and commended. It is hoped that Surratt's rearrest may be effected. In that expectation I shall lose no time in communicating, through that minister, with the Italian government at Florence. You cannot express too strongly to Cardinal Antonelli the satisfaction of the President with the friendly and prompt proceedings of the Papal government.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

RUFUS KING, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

---

*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

No. 48.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, November 30, 1866.*

SIR: Excuse me for reminding you of a regulation of this department. Every despatch should be confined to one subject alone. If several subjects are to be

treated of, they should be made the bases of distinct despatches. This regulation has its foundation in the necessity which exists for having always convenient references to the records and archives of the department.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

RUFUS KING, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

*Mr. Hale to Mr. Seward.*

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH—Time 6.15 p. m.

Telegram received at War Department, Washington, D. C., December 2, 1866, from cable, December 2, 1866 :

To SEWARD, *Washington* :

Have arrested John Surratt, one of President Lincoln's assassins. No doubt of identity.

HALE, *Alexandria.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Hale.*

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, December 3, 1866.*

SIR : Your course in regard to Surratt is approved. Measures will be taken for bringing him to the United States, of which you will be advised.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

CHARLES HALE, Esq.,

*United States Consul General, Alexandria, Egypt.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Hale.*

No. 25.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, December 4, 1866.*

SIR : The Secretary of the Navy has instructed Admiral Goldsborough to send a proper national armed vessel to Alexandria to receive from you John H. Surratt, a citizen of the United States, who is in your custody as an arrested fugitive, charged with the crime of assassination of the late Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and of an attempt to assassinate William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, in the month of April, 1865. You will deliver the before-named to the commanding officer of the vessel upon his reporting to you his arrival at Alexandria.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

MR. CHARLES HALE, *Alexandria, Egypt*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Welles.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, December 4, 1866.*

SIR : I give you, for your information, a copy of a despatch, which I have this day addressed to Charles Hale, esq., consul general to Alexandria, Egypt.

It is thought expedient that the prisoner, John H. Surratt, should be brought directly to the city of Washington, and delivered to the custody of the marshal of the District of Columbia, without stopping at any intermediate port either in this country or elsewhere.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

---

*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

[Extracts.]

No. 49.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, December 4, 1866.*

SIR: We have telegraphic information from Mr. Hale, United States consul general at Alexandria, of the arrest of John H. Surratt there. In consequence of this, Admiral Goldsborough has been ordered to send a war vessel thither for the purpose of bringing the prisoner here for trial. It is desirable and important that \* \* \* , to whom you have referred in your despatches, should also be sent hither as a witness. You will consequently apply for his discharge, \* \* \* and, if the application should be granted, you will forward him hither. A credit for \* \* \* touching the Surratt case, with which you have already been provided, will, it is presumed, be enough to defray the expenses incident to the execution of this instruction, including the travelling expenses of \* \* \* .

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

RUFUS KING, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

---

*Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Dudley.*

[Extracts.]

No. 562.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, December 6, 1866.*

SIR: With Mr. Wilding's despatch No. 538, of the 27th of September, 1865, he transmitted a copy of an affidavit of \* \* \* , which represents that he was a passenger with John H. Surratt in the steamer \* \* \* from Quebec, which arrived at Liverpool on the 25th of that month; that, in the course of the voyage, he had conversations with Surratt, which showed that he was more or less implicated in the conspiracy which resulted in the assassination of the late President Lincoln, and perhaps in the assassination itself. Mr. Wilding says that he had ascertained that \* \* \* was \* \* \* .

As it is probable that Surratt will soon be brought to this country for trial, it would be desirable to have \* \* \* as a witness. You will consequently try to ascertain where he now may be, and whether he would be willing to testify upon the occasion referred to.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,  
*Assistant Secretary.*

THOMAS H. DUDLEY, Esq.,  
*United States Consul, Liverpool.*



*Mr. Seward to Mr. King.*

No. 50.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 8, 1866.*

SIR: The commanding officer of the European squadron has been instructed to station one of his vessels at Civita Vecchia, if it can be done without detriment to other important interests.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

RUFUS KING, Esq., &c., &c., *Rome.**Mr. Seward to Mr. Marsh.*

No. 160.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 10, 1866.*

SIR: Your despatch, No. 168, dated November 18, has been received.

The course pursued by you on receiving from Mr. King, at Rome, information of the escape, into Italian territory, of John H. Surratt, is approved; and the promptness and energy of your efforts to secure his rearrest and his surrender to the United States, in the event of his being found within the Italian kingdom, are highly commended. You are, no doubt, already aware of the criminal's flight to Alexandria, and of his arrest there at the instance of the consul general, Mr. Hale.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

GEO P. MARSH, Esq., &c., &c., *Florence.**Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey.*

No. 20.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 10, 1866.*

SIR: I have received your despatch of November 17, No. 414. Your proceeding in the matter to which it relates are approved.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JAMES E. HARVEY, Esq., &c., &c., *Lisbon.*

